



# King County Councilmember **Bob Ferguson**

[www.metrokc.gov/ferguson](http://www.metrokc.gov/ferguson)

## District 2

[bob.ferguson@metrokc.gov](mailto:bob.ferguson@metrokc.gov)  
[www.metrokc.gov/ferguson](http://www.metrokc.gov/ferguson)  
(206) 296-1002

## In this issue:

- Replacing the SR 520 Bridge
- Big Changes at Northgate
- Saving the Waterfront Streetcar
- Water Taxi on Lake Union

## Dear Neighbors:

**SPRING '05**

This newsletter highlights four transportation related projects including the County's involvement with revitalizing Northgate, saving the Waterfront Streetcar, a potential Water Taxi on Lake Union, and an update on the SR 520 Bridge replacement project. As I walk the neighborhoods of North Seattle visiting with constituents, I know you have strong opinions about these issues.

As a member of the King County Council's Transportation and Regional Transit Committees, I oversee Metro Transit and examine new ways to ease congestion in the Puget Sound region. In addition, I serve on the SR 520 Bridge Executive Committee. Solving our traffic problems is about finding different and creative ways to move people.

I personally take the bus to work. I leave Maple Leaf and arrive downtown about 25 minutes later. I am fortunate to live close to the Northgate Park & Ride where the #41 bus brings me to work so efficiently. I understand firsthand the need for fast and accessible public transportation.

Please join me on Wednesday, May 25, for a town meeting focused on transportation issues. King County Councilmember Dwight Pelz, Transportation Committee Chair and Sound Transit Board Member, will be my guest. The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at Eckstein Middle School Cafeteria (3003 Northeast 75th Street). Bring your questions!

It is an honor to serve you on the King County Council.

Sincerely,

**Bob**

Bob Ferguson

# TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

## Replacing the SR 520 Bridge

As a member of the SR 520 Bridge Executive Committee, I represent North Seattle in major decisions as we replace the 520 Bridge. I am working to ensure adequate HOV lanes, minimal environmental impacts, efficient transit connections, and a seismically safe and cost-effective bridge.

The 520 Bridge, in operation since 1963, is one of the oldest floating bridges in the world. Due to storm and earthquake damage, the 520 Bridge must be replaced. The lifespan of the existing 520 Bridge is expected to expire in 2020, but a major earthquake or windstorm could cause the bridge to fail even earlier.

The Executive Committee will select a preferred alternative replacement design this fall. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be released in December. Construction is expected to begin in 2009, assuming funding is available.

Three designs are currently being considered by the 520 Bridge Executive Committee. Proposals range from a 4-lane alternative to a 6-lane alternative to accommodate carpools in a designated HOV lane. The 4-lane alternative is estimated to cost \$1.7 – 2 billion, while the 6-lane alternative is estimated to cost \$2.6 – 2.9 billion.



**Bob serves on the SR 520 Bridge Executive Committee and will vote to select the preferred alternative bridge replacement design this fall.**

The 520 Bridge replacement project is funded completely by the State, but tolls are expected to partially fund the project in the future. I support instituting tolls on the 520 Bridge to help fund the replacement project.

ect. Toll revenue is expected to contribute \$700 million.

In April, the Washington State Legislature approved \$500 million for the 520 Bridge replacement project. This funding is made available by the creation of a dedicated tax increase on gasoline to fund transportation projects.

Public comments are crucial for the success of this project. To get involved or learn more about the different proposed bridge replacement designs, visit [www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR520Bridge](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR520Bridge) or contact my office.

### SR 520 Bridge Replacement & HOV Project Schedule

#### JUNE 28, 2005

Open House  
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Museum of Industry and History  
2700 24th Avenue East

#### FALL 2005

520 Bridge Executive Committee selects preferred bridge replacement design

Draft Environmental Impact Statement released

#### 2006

Final Environmental Impact Statement released

#### 2009

Construction Starts \*

#### 2015

Construction Complete \*

#### 2020

Existing SR 520 Bridge design life \*\*

\* Depends on availability of funds

\*\* Estimated design life could be reduced by major earthquake or windstorm

## Water Taxi on Lake Union

A passenger-only Water Taxi now serves Elliot Bay, transporting commuters and tourists from West Seattle to the Seattle Waterfront. The Elliot Bay Water Taxi is experiencing growing popularity since it began operation in 1998, with 65,386 trips in 2004. Funded by the County, fares are \$2 per one-way trip and bikes are permitted on board.

Last year, the King County Council directed Metro Transit, in partnership with the Discovery Institute's Cascadia Project, to study potential Waterborne Transit on Lake Union and Lake Washington. This summer, a report is due to the Council detailing public and private roles, potential ridership levels, costs, and funding strategies. This report will help determine if it makes sense for the County to become further involved in the Water Taxi business.



***Bob takes a ride on a pilot Lake Union water taxi with Andy Bennett, District 2 representative to the Metro Transit Advisory Committee.***

The Water Taxi is not a new concept. Many years ago, Waterborne transit was the quickest way to move across Puget Sound and Lake Washington. Known as the "Mosquito Fleet," these waterborne vessels moved people and goods across King County. By 1939, the "Mosquito Fleet" was made obsolete by new bridges, roads, and motor vehicles, but served as the basis for our Washington State Ferry system.

Of course the Water Taxi will not be the entire solution to our traffic problems. It could offer one more alternative to encourage us to get out of our cars. I am looking forward to reviewing the Waterborne Transit Study when it is released next month and intrigued by the alternative transportation choices it could add for the Puget Sound region.

## Big Changes at Northgate

As a daily user of the Northgate Transit Center, I am closely following the new developments at Northgate. King County Department of Transportation is proposing a Transit Oriented Development project at Northgate that will expand the current park & ride and bus service to create a major new transit hub offering connections for potential light rail and monorail transfers.

I am monitoring the work of the Northgate Stakeholders Group, a citizen committee tasked with formulating recommendations on the many projects to revitalize Northgate.

Of particular concern to many neighbors is the parking plan proposed by King County Department of Trans-

portation and Lorig. Lorig is the developer that plans to create housing, a cinema, and retail, on the South Lot of the Northgate park & ride property. That property is currently owned by the Washington State Department of Transportation. The proposal calls for shared parking— park & ride users would use the lots during the commuter and work hours, while cinema and retail patrons would use the lots in the evening and weekend hours.

King County successfully implemented such a shared parking program for a Transit Oriented Development project at Overlake in Bellevue. The King County Council will make the ultimate decision on this proposal and I welcome your feedback.

**For  
more  
information**  
on transportation, visit  
[www.metrokc.gov/ferguson](http://www.metrokc.gov/ferguson)



# TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

## Saving the Waterfront Streetcar

I am committed to preserving the waterfront streetcar, a signature element of our vibrant waterfront. King County Metro Transit operates the George Benson Waterfront Streetcar Line. George Benson, a former Seattle City Councilmember, was responsible for the creation of the streetcar. The streetcar has operated since 1982 and runs from the International District to Pier 70.

The current streetcar maintenance barn resides on land designated by the Seattle Art Museum and the City of Seattle for the creation of the 8.5 acre waterfront Olympic Sculpture Park. The designs for the sculpture park include removal of the maintenance barn, which currently encompasses one-third of the site,

to ensure access to the water and views for park users.



***Bob recently met with Mimi Gates, Seattle Art Museum Director.***

Unfortunately, the only sites King County Metro Transit identified for replacement are expensive. The Port of Seattle, however, recently offered land rent free to be used for a relocated maintenance barn. I am very interested in examining the details of this proposal and will work with my Council colleagues to ensure that the waterfront streetcar is kept in service for the benefit of future generations. The King County Council, Seattle City Council, Seattle Art Museum, and

Port of Seattle plans to produce a proposal to save the waterfront streetcar by June 1, 2005.

## ACTION-GRAM

***As your elected representative, I appreciate hearing your comments and concerns. Please fill out the form below, include postage and mail. You can also email me at: [bob.ferguson@metrokc.gov](mailto:bob.ferguson@metrokc.gov).***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

☐ I would like to be added to Bob's email news list.

# JOIN ME ON THE BUS

King County Metro Transit offers several options to get us out of our cars including bus service and carpools. Join me by leaving your car at home or at a park & ride, and try a new way to get around.

## Metro Bus

Contact Rider Information at (206) 553-3000 or visit [tripplanner.metrokc.gov](http://tripplanner.metrokc.gov) for assistance in determining which bus routes will work best for you. You can purchase bus passes online at [buypass.metrokc.gov](http://buypass.metrokc.gov) or by calling (206) 624-PASS (624-7277).

## Carpool or Vanpool to work or school

Visit [RideshareOnline.com](http://RideshareOnline.com) to find commuters in your neighborhood to carpool. In addition, the Metro VanPool program provides a van, fuel, and insurance, for qualified groups of 5 to 15 riders. Contact 1-800-427-8429 or email [vanpool.information@metrokc.gov](mailto:vanpool.information@metrokc.gov).

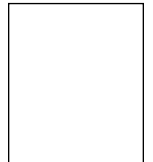


*Bob rides the #41 Metro Bus from Northgate Transit Center to downtown Seattle.*

---

---

---



## Bob Ferguson

King County Councilmember  
Room 1200  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

# ACTION-GRAM



## Bob Ferguson

King County Councilmember  
516 Third Avenue, Room 1200  
Seattle, WA 98104

[www.metrokc.gov/ferguson](http://www.metrokc.gov/ferguson)  
[bob.ferguson@metrokc.gov](mailto:bob.ferguson@metrokc.gov)  
(206) 296-1002

PRSRT STD  
US Postage

**PAID**

Seattle, WA  
Permit No. 1788

## JOIN US Transportation Town Meeting

with guest King County Councilmember  
Dwight Pelz

**Wednesday, May 25**  
**7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

Eckstein Middle School Cafeteria  
3003 Northeast 75th Street

*Bring your questions!*

## IN THE COMMUNITY

### Volunteering at Aegis in Northgate



*Bob and his staff recently volunteered at Aegis, a senior assisted-living home in Northgate. They served tea and cookies to seniors at a mid-morning tea party.*

In late April, my staff and I volunteered at Aegis, a senior assisted-living home located in Northgate (11039 - 17th Avenue Northeast). Aegis is a facility dedicated to seniors with Alzheimer's and dementia and serves over 40 residents. We brought baked goods and enjoyed a mid-morning tea party with residents.

Volunteer work is one of the most rewarding activities we do as an office. Once a month, my staff and I volunteer at a different North Seattle organization. If you know of a non-profit organization that can use our time and service, please contact my office at (206) 296-1002.